

PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Help Prevent Sidewalk Obstructions

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHY KEEP THE SIDEWALK CLEAR?

In addition to it being required by law, we have a collective responsibility to provide and maintain public sidewalks that ALL people can use. Property owners and businesses may not obstruct passage on sidewalks and pedestrian ways, including with overgrown trees, shrubs, seating, or signage on their property.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU AS A RESIDENT OF BROOKLINE?

Whether you are a business or property owner you can help your neighbors, especially those who use wheelchairs, baby carriages, or other mobility devices, by trimming your hedges and bushes back to **provide an unobstructed path of travel of at least 48 inches wide and to a clearance height of at least 80 inches.**



TOWN BY LAWS: SECTION 7.5.11 OBSTRUCTIONS

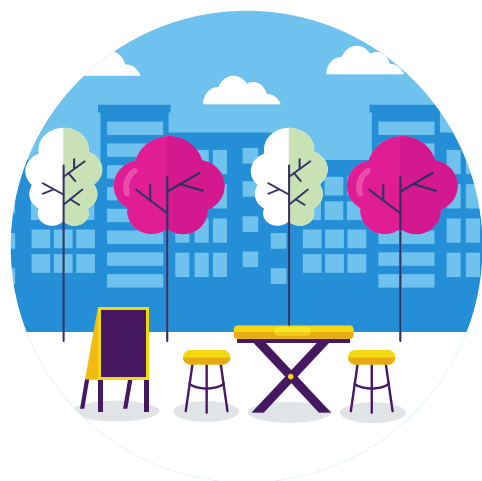
No person shall place or cause to be placed in any street or upon any sidewalk of the town, any lumber, coal, iron, trunk, bale, box, crate, cask, package, article, or anything whatsoever so as to obstruct a free passage for travelers, nor allow any of the same to remain more than one hour after being notified by a police officer to remove it, except that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent the use of streets and sidewalks for building purposes upon obtaining a permit from the Select Board.

STATE LAW & THE ADA (FEDERAL) & PROWAG

MA 521 CMR states:

Width of **walkways shall not be less than 48 inches** (48"= 1219mm), excluding curb stones.

Brookline is also working under the Public Rights-of- Way PROWAG standards, created by the US Access Board.



WHAT IF I NEED HELP?

Please use BrookOnLine and file complaints under Other-Handicapped Accessibility and/or email Sarah Kaplan, ADA Coordinator at skaplan@brooklinema.gov. We appreciate it if you can include pictures and locations of any issue that needs to be addressed.

Office of Diversity, Inclusion, & Community Relations
Department of Public Works

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HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE?

If you receive a notice that your business or property is in violation of Brookline's sidewalk obstruction town-by-law, please address the notice promptly. Restaurants and property owners may reach out to the Department of Public Works for guidance.



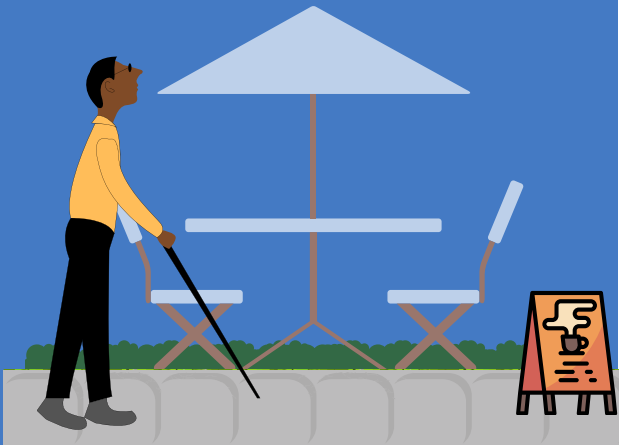
CAN YOU HELP ME FIND A LANDSCAPER?

While the Town cannot officially recommend any one business, you may want to contact the [Brookline Teen Center's Youthscapers Program](#).



WHAT ABOUT OUTDOOR SEATING AND SIGNAGE?

Restaurants must provide at least 48 inches of an unobstructed path of travel when placing sidewalk seating and signage. If you are finding this difficult to achieve you may want reach out to the Department of Public Works for guidance. Different options for sidewalk extensions may be available to you.



WHAT ABOUT SNOW REMOVAL?

As a property or business owner, you are responsible to maintain all sidewalks abutting your property or business in a non-slippery condition free of ice and snow and provide a pathway of at least 36 inches.

Please clear openings at intersections & crosswalks so pedestrians can cross safely.



FINES

For non-snow obstructions: \$50 per occurrence

For snow-related sidewalk obstructions a business or multi-family home: \$100 for the first violation, compounding \$50 for each subsequent violation.

The owner of a single family home may be fined \$50 for the violation, compounding \$50 for each subsequent violation.

